

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A method, comprising:
- a) providing: i) a biological sample comprising one or more structural polypeptides; and ii) an acid;
- b) treating said sample with said acid under conditions such that said one or more polypeptides is recovered in a solution.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is selected from SEQ ID NO.: 2, SEQ ID NO.: 4, SEQ ID NO.: 6, SEQ ID NO.: 8, SEQ ID NO.: 9, and SEQ ID NO.: 11.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said biological sample comprises recombinant polypeptides.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said biological sample comprises non-recombinant polypeptides.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said acid comprises an organic acid.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said organic acid is selected from formic, acetic, propionic, butyric, and valeric acids.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of manipulating said solution under conditions such that insoluble fibers are produced.

8. The fibers produced according to the process of Claim 7.

9. A method, comprising:

- a) providing: i) host cells expressing one or more recombinant structural polypeptides, and ii) a solution comprising an organic acid;

- b) treating said host cells with said solution to create a mixture;
- c) removing insoluble material from said mixture; and
- d) recovering said one or more recombinant polypeptides in a solution..

5 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said ~~one or more~~ polypeptides is selected from SEQ ID NO.: 2, ~~SEQ ID NO.: 4~~, SEQ ID NO.: 6, SEQ ID NO.: 8, SEQ ID NO.: 9, and SEQ ID NO.: 11.

¹⁰ 11. The method of Claim ⁸ 9, wherein said organic acid is selected from formic
10 acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and valeric acid.

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B3 12. The method of Claim 9, wherein said recovered one or more recombinant polypeptides in said solution are manipulated under conditions such that insoluble fibers are produced.

15 13. The fibers produced according to the process of Claim 12.

14. A method, comprising:

- a) providing: i) bacterial cells expressing one or more recombinant structural polypeptides, and ii) a solution comprising an organic acid selected from formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and valeric acid.;
- b) treating said bacterial cells with said solution to create a mixture;
- c) removing insoluble material from said mixture; and
- d) recovering said one or more recombinant polypeptides in a solution.

25 15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said one or more polypeptides is selected from SEQ ID NO.: 2, SEQ ID NO.: 4, SEQ ID NO.: 6, SEQ ID NO.: 8, and SEQ ID NO.: 11.

30 16. The method of Claim 14, further comprising the step of manipulating said recovered one or more recombinant polypeptides under conditions such that insoluble

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18. ~~The fibers produced according to the process of Claim 17.~~

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